



The Hour

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"keeps up with Hitler to the minute"

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Board

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HITLER EYES BELGIUM

Considers Flemings as Germans, and
Walloons as "Artificially Frenchified"
-- Pro-Nazi Organizations in Belgium
Prepare Ground for Possible Invasion

Against the background of the growing rumors of the impending invasion of Belgium by Hitler's armies to outflank the French and British, the pro-Nazi organizations in Flanders and other parts of Belgium are continuing their propaganda for Anschluss with the Reich. We are informed of the intensification noticeable in the work of the National-socialistische Vlaamsche Arbeiderpartij, whose organization follows the Berlin models and desires, and whose main claim is of Flanders as "niederdeutscher Lebensraum" or "low-German living space." More recently these Nazi spokesmen in Belgium have been openly announcing Hitler's forthcoming march to the West. They have been saying that not only the Flemish provinces but also the districts of French-speaking Walloons by right should belong to Germany. The Walloons, they say, are Moselle Franks who centuries back were "artificially Frenchified."

Belgium is already divided into Nazi "Gau" or districts. There is, for instance, a "Gau Brabant" headed by the "Gauleiter" van Brusselen. One of Hitler's most important newspapers in Belgium is the Flemish-language Dietsche Beweging (German Movement), edited by Dr. J. D. Domela-Nieuwenhuis-Nijegard, a Protestant clergyman. During the war of 1914-18 he was the chief of the Flemish autonomists, and is now prepared to renew his role. Among other fuehrers, we find Leon Degrelle of the Rexists; Joris van Severen of the Vereenigde Dietsche Nationale Solidaristen (United German National Solidarists), with regular storm-troopers at his disposal; and Paul Hornaert of the Legion Nationale.

Even Streicher's notorious Der Stuermer is duplicated by the Flemish Volksverwerping, abounding in pornographic anti-Semitism.

The way of Hitler into Belgium is paved.

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ALFRED ROSENBERG FOUGHT THE PACT WITH SOVIETS

"Ribbentrop Won the Battle of the Pact in Berlin but Lost it in Moscow"

The unhappiest Nazi these days is Alfred Rosenberg, we are informed by a friend of ours in Berlin (via Switzerland). For years, before Ribbentrop's comparatively recent rise to power, Rosenberg deemed himself Hitler's unofficial foreign minister. A Baltic German, born and reared in Tallinn (Reval), Estonia, and educated in pre-revolutionary Russian schools, he hated new Russia and planned an early conquest, by Hitler's diplomacy and armies, of the Baltic States, of the Ukraine, and of as much of Russia proper as possible. Under his wing in Berlin, various White Guard Russian groups were fed and fostered in preparation for the conquest. Ribbentrop's surrender at the Kremlin came to Rosenberg as a rude shock, a blasphemy. To see his native city of Tallinn in the Kremlin's sphere of influence, and at that delivered to Stalin by Hitler's own hands, was the crowning insult to Rosenberg's ego.

He viewed with especial horror the hasty uprooting of the scores of thousands of upper- and middle-class Germans in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and their repatriation to the Reich. To Rosenberg it was Hitler's greatest defeat -- this abolition of centuries-old German outposts in the East, this removal of the Teutonic thorn in the flesh of the "uncultured" Ests, Letts, Lithuanians and Russians. If Siegfried Line facing the Maginot Line in the West gave the Nazi Germans a feeling of assurance, Rosenberg now feels the assurance is vastly undermined by the emergence of the Voroshilov Line which the Soviet Russians are erecting on the newly gained bases against possible aggression from the Nazis.

We are told that prior to the fateful August day, Rosenberg with all his might -- and with the help of Goebbels -- opposed the pact with the Soviet Union, calling it the worst defeat that Nazism could have wished upon itself. He and Goebbels were combatted by Ribbentrop and Goering who at one point of the struggle found it necessary to publish a pamphlet viciously attacking Rosenberg and his friend, the propaganda minister. The pamphlet was circulated in Berlin among high Nazi functionaries, with Hitler's personal blessing. Ribbentrop won the Battle of the Pact in Berlin, but (Rosenberg now darkly mutters) lost it in Moscow.

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NAZI CENSORSHIP ELUDED

A letter received by one of our friends from Germany reads: "We are all well and happy, but Aunt Amalia is the happiest of all." The recipient of the letter tells us that Aunt Amalia died seven years ago. (Approximately the same method of eluding a dictator's censorship was used last year by persons writing from Franco's Spain.)

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SENATOR DAVIS HEILED IN PHILADELPHIA

Nazi Character of Rally Concealed But Clumsily

Despite the widespread protests, addressed to Senator James J. Davis (R., Pennsylvania) against his participation in the Nazi-run "German Day" in Philadelphia, the Senator came to the festival and delivered the main speech of the evening. The rally, arranged by the German-American Federation of Pennsylvania, took place on Friday, October 6, in the Metropolitan Opera House of Philadelphia.

Our Philadelphia representative reports that, to help support the Senator's denial of his hosts' Nazism, orders went out that no Nazi connections were to be made evident at the celebration. The German consul in New York was asked to withdraw his sponsorship of the meeting, and during the festival there was a notable absence of American fascist propaganda in its usual open forms. The whole effort of the sponsors was to work for the Nazi Reich's foreign policy in the name of Americanism.

Nevertheless, advertisements of the "German Day" and the Senator's speech appeared in the Nazi Bund's official organ, Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter. The Nazi character of many of the organizations affiliated with the German-American Federation of Pennsylvania was too definite to be successfully concealed (see The Hour for September 30). During the meeting, a group of about 30 impassioned Nazis were unable to restrain their "heils" when Senator Davis said: "If the President sincerely wants peace then let him tell them in Europe that the war must stop and offer to arbitrate a just peace himself." By heiling this passage in the Senator's speech, the Nazis apparently connected the legislator's plea with Hitler's reported desire to see President Roosevelt as his mediator for peace.

Congressmen James P. McGranery and Fred C. Gartner (the latter known to the Bundites as Fritz Gartner) were also greeted by the same zealous group with heils and outstretched arms in the well-known Hitlerite manner.

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NEW FASCIST WEEKLY IN CALIFORNIA

William Kullgren, notorious on the West Coast for his pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic activities, has come out with a new fascist weekly America Speaks (not to be confused with a New Haven, Conn., publication of the same name and a definitely anti-Nazi program). Issued in Atascadero, California, Kullgren's sheet joins the front of Pelley, Coughlin and Edmondson in an attack upon the Jewish people and their "war-guilt." It prints an article by James McMullin, New York Coughlinite, which attempts to prove that the English, French and American governments are controlled by Jews in "the final hope of wrecking Hitler and all that he stands for." This weekly is seen as fresh evidence of the work being carried on across the border by the newly formed Nazi headquarters in Mexico.

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KUNZE TO FILL KUHN'S SHOES

Bund Reshuffles Itself in Preparation for Trial

Well aware of the possibility that their fuehrer, Fritz Kuhn, may receive a stiff sentence if convicted of larceny in the New York courts during the trial which begins on October 30, the forces of the German-American Bund have reshaped their leadership to prepare for all eventualities.

G. Wilhelm Kunze, formerly national public relations director has been promoted by Kuhn to vice-leadership, while James Wheeler-Hill national secretary of the Bund and up till lately Number-Two Nazi in the United States, now drops to the fourth place. Kunze is the only leading Bundite who speaks perfect English as well as perfect German; he stands a very good chance of becoming the new Bundesfuehrer should Kuhn go to jail.

Kunze's Record in Philadelphia

Kunze's rise from the rank and file has been interesting. Although comparatively young, he has traveled to his present high position with an amazing speed. As first leader of the Philadelphia unit of the Bund, he aroused considerable comment by the quiet way in which he built up his small but powerful branch. He succeeded in involving with the Bund many clergymen such as the Rev. S. G. Von Bosse; members of the U. S. Army and Naval Reserve such as Major General Robert M. Brookfield, U. S. A., retired (see The Hour for September 16); and the notorious Philadelphia school teacher Bessie K. Burchett whose vigorous anti-Semitic rampages have won her nation-wide publicity.

August Klapprott, former manager of Camp Nordland in Andover, New Jersey, with a Nazi past in Europe and Canada, has been promoted to Eastern Department leadership. He succeeds Rudolph Markmann, who has fled to Germany. Other promotions include that of Wilhelm Luedtke, previously the Manhattan borough commander, to national economics director, succeeding the late Richard J. Mettin (see The Hour for June 15 and July 15).

Funds and Records Shifted

Because of fear of the New York authorities, and of what more they may learn about the Bund's finances, the financial records and the funds themselves are being moved to Union City, New Jersey, across the river from New York. Money, formerly sent by mail to 178 East 85th Street, New York City, is now being received by the Bund at 754 Palisades Avenue, Union City, New Jersey, whence it is brought to Manhattan by Bund members.

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"IRISH HITLER" OF CHICAGO SAYS HE IS QUITTING

R. J. Healey Admits Sudden Dearth of Subsidies -- Bishop Sheil's Work for Tolerance is Among Counteracting Phenomena

Raymond Joseph Healey has "given up" his Nazi-fascist-Coughlinite activities. He is now residing in Chicago as a "respected citizen." He states that he will become a devoted church member, and that he will devote his life to writing a book about how "the Nazi Bund ruined my life."

Relaying this information to The Hour, our Chicago correspondent remarks that Healey is now a very disappointed man for quite a practical reason: Healey was recently negotiating in New York for funds to continue his anti-Semitic and Coughlinite The Key and to develop his Gentile Workers' Party, but the higher-ups in the Bund and in the Christian Front refused any assistance to him. The main reason for refusal is that the Nazi leaders and the Coughlinites have recently been receiving the more experienced group of leaders who were obliged to leave Canada; the cities of Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit are now being "worked" by newer and abler Hitlerites than Raymond Joseph Healey. Angered by this decision to sacrifice him, Healey has resolved to make his fortune by turning against the Nazi leaders for the time being, and by writing the revelations of his connections with them.

Our Chicago representative saw among Healey's stock of literature many issues of True's Industrial Reports, Pelley's Liberation, and Asher's X-Ray. Envyng the funds of True and Pelley, and having in the past received financial assistance from such wealthy men as Howland Spencer of Krum Elbow fame and William Blanchard of Florida, the "Irish Hitler" has been looking for a native-fascist supporter. And so Healey journeyed to Muncie, Indiana, where Court Asher publishes his X-Ray, a fascist and Christian Front weekly. It is common knowledge in the Middle West that Asher, a wealthy man, is aiding a number of anti-Semitic publications in this country. However, nothing materialized from Healey's negotiations with Asher.

Growth of Opposition: Bishop's Address

It is possible that Asher felt Healey's Key was too close geographically to his X-Ray, and so rather a competitive sheet. But there is also the generally recognized growth of opposition to fascism among the Catholics of Chicago, which makes Healey's success doubtful unless a great deal of money is poured into The Key and the Gentile Workers' Party; for such sizable donations Asher is not ready.

Of the forces opposing fascism among Catholics of Chicago and the Middle West in general the voice of Bishop Bernard J. Sheil is considered as one of the most effective. His address, delivered over the NBC network on October 2, in no uncertain terms criticized Coughlin and Coughlinites for their "sheer arrogance and impertinence" displayed in their "pressure tactics against the rest of the community." It is just this counteraction on the part of the responsible leaders of the Catholic church that makes the work of the Healeys and other Hitlerites so difficult.

